cost of leasing such a capacity from foreign satellites, if attempted at the prevailing International rates. could be of the order of Rs. 400.00 crores per year. This does not include the intangible social benefits and those accruing out of meteorological services provided through INSAT system.

(e) The steps taken to expand the satellite programme include:

— Continuing and enhancing the existing satellite service capabilities with the launch of follow-on INSAT and IRS series of satellites;

— Introduction of new service payloads in the follow-on satellites

— Incorporation of payloads in the follow-on satellites for providing advanced technologies in areas of remote sensing, communication, broadcasting, meteorology, disaster management and for space science; and

— Increasing the number of satellites in orbit both in INSAT and IRS series over the next few years thereby increasing space segment capacity.

Commensurate studies, design and development activities have been initiated in this regard through technology development programmes, study project and experimental satellite projects.

Unemployed Persons in Rural Areas

3861. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons in rural areas of the country, as on the 15th August, 19%;

(b) the number, out of them of the partly unemployed and of those fully unemployed; and

(c) the details of measures taken to provide gainful employement to such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The estimates of unemployment are not available as on the 15th August, 1996. However, according to Planning Commission, based on NSSO during 1993-94 (NSS-50th Round), the incidence of open unemployment is 1.79% (unemployed as percentage of Labour Force) and the incidence of unemployment and visible underemployment is 5.61% in Rural India.

The expansion of employment opportunities is an important objective of Eighth Five Year Plan and the Plan strategy lays emphasis on faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas having high employment potential, for accelerating employment growth.

Major employment programmes implemented in various States are Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), for providing employment opportunities to rural poor.

Marketing of country liquor in Silvassa

3862. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Territory Administration of Dadra & Nagar Haveli has a distillery, manufacturing country liquor in tribal areas of Silvassa;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that the Union Territory Administration is importing country liquor from other States for distribution to vendors in Industrial and Tribal areas of Dadra & Nagar Haveli; and